

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATMANDU

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 1247

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 16268

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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TAGS: PFOR PINT MARR PK UR CH IR IN AF

SUBJ: PAKISTAN DEFENSE AND FOREIGN MINISTER AHMED'S VISIT TO JAPAN:
FOREIGN POLICY DISCUSSION

REF: A. TOKYO 16257 B. TOKYO 16267

1. SUMMARY. DURING FIVE DAY VISIT TO TOKYO, PAKISTAN'S
DEFENSE AND FOREIGN MINISTER AHMED HELD WIDE RANGING
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DISCUSSION WITH THEN FONMIN KIMURA. ON FOREIGN POLICY

ISSUES, AHMED EMPHASIZED PAKISTAN'S CONCERN OVER SOVIET DESIGNS ON PAKISTAN AND ISLAMABAD'S DISTRESS THAT SOPHISTICATED ARMS ARE UNAVAILABLE TO PAKS FROM US OR PRC WHILE SOVIETS PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL WEAPONRY TO BOTH PAKISTAN'S NEIGHBORS. AHMED EXPRESSED NO CONCERN OVER IMPROVING INDO-IRANIAN RELATIONS. SHOWING ANXIETY OVER INDIA'S NUCLEAR EXPLOSION, AHMED CALLED FOR CREDIBLE GUARANTEES THAT NON-NUCLEAR STATES WOULD NOT BE VICTIMS OF NUCLEAR ATTACK BY NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING MEETING WITH THEN FONMIN KIMURA DEC 7, PAKISTANI DEFENSE AND FOREIGN MINISTER AZIZ AHMED PROVIDED ISLAMABAD'S APPRAISAL OF ITS FOREIGN RELATIONS AND STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS IN SOUTH ASIA. FONOFF SW ASIA DIV DEP DIR HAMANO RECOUNTED TAOKS FOR US AS FOLLOWS (BI-LATERAL PAK-JAPAN RELATIONS REPORTED REFTEL A).

3. AHMED DESCRIBED PAKISTAN'S RELATIONS WITH USSR AS REASONABLY GOOD, WITH US AS VERY GOOD, AND WITH PRC AS EXCELLENT. HE NOTED THAT PAKISTAN WAS WORLD'S ONLY COUNTRY WITH GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL THREE. NEVERTHELESS, PAKS' PREOCCUPATION WITH THREAT FROM SOVIET UNION CAME THROUGH CLEARLY. AHMED SAID SOVIET UNION PROVIDED SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY TO BOTH INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN, THE IMPLICIT USE OF WHICH WAS FOR FURTHER DISMEMBERMENT OF PAKISTAN. SOVIETS SUPPLY ARMS TO AFGHANISTAN'S PUSHTUS, THEREBY SUPPORTING REBELS ON BOTH SIDES OF AFGHAN-PAK BORDER FOR CREATION OF PUSHTU NATION. SOVIET SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN PUSHTUS GREATLY COMPLICATES PROBLEM FOR GOP OF CONTROLLING PUSHTUS ON PAK SIDE OF BORDER. ACCORDING TO AHMED, PAKISTAN IS SOLE REMAINING OBSTACLE TO SOVIET GOAL OF UNIMPEDED ACCESS TO INDIAN OCEAN AND PERSIAN GULF. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE DISMISSED IRAN, AIRILY, SAYING THAT TEHRAN HAD COMPROMISED ITS POSITION WHEN SHAH EXPRESSED SUPPORT IN MOSCOW FOR BREZHNEV'S COLLECTIVE SECURITY SCHEME. IN PAST, SOVIETS ATTEMPTED TO EXERT INFLUENCE OVER PAKISTAN BY OVERT "ARM TWISTING" (AND SUPPORT FOR REBELS) BUT RECENTLY, MOSCOW HAS

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SOUGHT TO SUBVERT AND INFLUENCE PAKISTAN BY MORE SUBTLE METHODS. ULTIMATE INTENTION, NEVERTHELESS IS SAME- TO GAIN DECISIVE INFLUENCE IN PAKISTAN.

4. AHMED TOLD KIMURA THAT SOVIETS TRIED TO OBTAIN PM BHUTTO'S ACCEPTANCE OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY SCHEME DURING BHUTTO'S OCTOBER VISIT TO MOSCOW BUT BHUTTO TOLD RUSSIANS IDEA WAS PREMATURE. DESPITE BHUTTO'S REJECTION OF SCHEME

DURING TALKS, SOVIETS, HEAVY-HANDEDLY, INSERTED SENTENCE IN THEIR DRAFT COMMUNIQUE SAYING THAT BHUTTO SUPPORTED COLLECTIVE SECURITY SCHEME. BHUTTO, REPROVINGLY, DEMANDED THAT SENTENCE BE DELETED, WHICH IT WAS.

5. AHMED SAID RELATIONS WITH US WERE VERY GOOD BUT HE EXPRESSED GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE US HAS BEEN UNWILLING TO PROVIDE ARMS TO PAKISTAN SINCE 1965, WHILE SOVIETS ARMED INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN. WITHOUT SPECIFYING WHY, AHMED SAID CHINESE WERE "IN NO POSITION" TO PROVIDE SOPHISTICATED ARMS TO PAKS.

6. DURING DISCUSSION OF PAKISTAN'S EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH PEKING, AHMED SAID PRC DEPUTY PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING TOLD BHUTTO, DURING LATTER'S MOST RECENT TRIP TO PEKING, THAT THERE WAS "NO THREAT" TO CHINA FROM THE USSR. ACCORDING TO AHMED, TENG REASONED THAT ONE MILLION SOVIET TROOPS ON BORDER WERE INSUFFICIENT. IF MOSCOW SERIOUSLY INTENDED TO ATTACK CHINA, A MINIMUM OF THREE MILLION TROOPS WOULD BE REQUIRED.

7. KIMURA PROBED FOR PAKS' ASSESSMENT OF IMPROVING INDO-IRANIAN RELATIONS AND POSSIBLE AFFECTS THEREFROM ON ISLAMABAD'S RELATIONS WITH TEHRAN. AHMED RESPONDED CONFIDENTLY THAT INDIA NEEDED IRAN'S ASSISTANCE ECONOMICALLY AND SUBSTANCE OF INDO-IRANIAN RELATIONS DERIVED ESSENTIALLY FROM INDIA'S ECONOMIC NEED. PAKISTAN'S RELATIONS WITH IRAN, ON OTHER HAND, WERE EXTENSIVE AND DURABLE IN ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND EVEN SECURITY FIELDS. AHMED INDICATED IRAN WOULD COME TO AID OF PAKISTAN SHOULD LATTER BE ATTACKED. IMPROVED INDO-IRANIAN, TIES, THEREFORE, IN NO WAY JEOPARDIZED PAK-IRANIAN RELATIONS.

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8. IN NEWSPAPER INTERVIEWS AND IN Q AND A AT FOREIGN PRESS CLUB, AHMED EMPHATICALLY RULED OUT POSSIBILITY OF PAKISTAN'S DEVELOPING NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES. HE EXPRESSED GREAT DISSATISFACTION OVER LACK OF GUARANTEES AGAINST NUCLEAR ATTACK BY NUCLEAR STATES ON NON-NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES. ACCORDING TO AHMED, ISRAEL, ARGENTINA, AND HOST OF OTHER COUNTRIES COULD GO NUCLEAR IF CREDIBLE GUARANTEES WERE NOT DEvised. AT VARIANCE WITH HIS REMARKS ELSEWHERE, AT PRESS CLUB, AHMED REPORTEDLY SAID INDIA'S STATEMENT THAT DELHI DOES NOT INTEND TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS SHOULD BE BELIEVED BUT HE WARNED, "IF INDIA DOES, THE SITUATION WILL CHANGE (WITH OTHERS)." ACCORDING TO FONOFF'S HAMANO, IN TALK WITH KIMURA, AHMED SEVERELY CRITICIZED INDIA'S NUCLEAR EXPLOSION AND EXPRESSED NO CONFIDENCE IN INDIA'S POLICY OF NOT BUILDING

NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

9. AHMED REPEATEDLY ATTEMPTED TO INDUCE KIMURA INTO ASSESSING INDIA'S STRENGTH, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND MILITARY, BUT IN DEFERENCE TO INDIA'S SENSITIVITIES, KIMURA DECLINED TO OFFER ANY COMMENT. FONOFF FEARED ANY COMMENT WOULD TRAVEL PAK CIRCUIT TO PEKING AND THEREAFTER TO DELHI, INEVITABLY HARMING INDO-JAPANESE RELATIONS.

10. COMMENT: JAPANESE WERE VERY PLEASED WITH RANGE OF DISCUSSIONS WITH AHMED. HIS PREOCCUPATION WITH SOVIET IMPERIALISTIC DESIGNS AND "THREAT" FALLS ON RECEPTIVE EARS IN TOKY, WHERE RUSSIANS ARE FREQUENTLY SEEN AS MAJOR DESTABILIZING INFLUENCE IN SOUTH ASIA AND OTHER PARTS OF WORLD. FONOFF WELCOMES PAKISTAN AS BUFFER TO SOVIET AMBITIONS IN SOUTH ASIA. PREPONDERANT SOVIET INFLUENCE IN PAKISTAN WOULD, IN JAPANESE EYES, ALSO POSE THREAT TO SEA LANES FROM PERSIAN GULF TO JAPAN. JAPANESE ARE CURIOUS ABOUT INDO-IRANIAN CHUMMINESS (REF B) AND ALSO SEE PAKISTAN AS LIMITED COUNTER TO INDIA AND ANY HEGEMONIC AMBITIONS DELHI (OR TEHRAN) MAY HAVE. SHOESMITH

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